

Stanfill Press statement 6/17/21

Once more, I would like to say just how deeply honored and humbled I am to serve as Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. I very much appreciate the trust and confidence Governor Mills, the Maine State Senate, and the people of Maine have placed in me. I am now in my 15th year as a Maine judge and am still grateful every day for the opportunity to serve the people of Maine. Put simply, I love being a judge.

Switching roles in the courts means continuing to decide cases – judging - but moving onto a larger stage, where the analysis and decisions impact not only the immediate litigants but also other cases present and future. I also look forward to leading the Judicial Branch through the challenges facing it: indigent legal services; criminal pretrial reform and sentencing; systemic racism and bias, including gender and cultural issues; and most of all, the backlog and stress created by the pandemic

Socrates said, “Four things belong to a judge: To hear courteously; to answer wisely; to consider soberly; and to decide impartially.” I try to live up to those ideals every day, to ensure meaningful and equal access to justice for all. These are the core values and strength of the American legal system, a system essential to a free society.

I can imagine no greater honor, calling, privilege or responsibility than serving as Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court in this great state we are so fortunate to call home. I promise you I will serve with the utmost integrity and commitment to the administration of justice in the State of Maine.

Thank you.